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Letter dated 2 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 February 2007, addressed to you by Mr. Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex), forwarding the letter of Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-22933 (E) 050207

Annex to the letter dated 2 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 2 February 2007 addressed to you by Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

It has come to our attention that the Greek Cypriot administration, which purports to be "the Government of the Republic of Cyprus", has recently concluded an agreement with Lebanon on the delimitation of the exclusive economic zone, which undermines the rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriot side.

It should be stated, at the outset, that the Greek Cypriot administration does not represent the entire island or the Turkish Cypriot people. It neither has the legal right nor the legitimacy to claim to represent or act on behalf of Turkish Cypriots who are represented by their own elected representatives and live under their own administration. This has been further evidenced by the fact that the referenda on the Comprehensive Settlement Plan conducted on 24 April 2004 were separate and simultaneous, underlining the fact that each side represents itself and no one else and has equal right and say on the island of Cyprus and its future.

There is no doubt that the Turkish Cypriot people, who were the equal partner in the 1960 Republic of Cyprus and would again be the political equal of the Greek Cypriot people in a future comprehensive agreement to be reached under the auspices of your good offices mission, have equal right and say on the natural resources on the land and sea areas of the island of Cyprus. It would be remembered that the Greek Cypriot administration had concluded a similar agreement with Egypt in 2003, which was objected to by the Turkish Cypriot side for the very reasons mentioned above.

In view of the foregoing, this agreement signed by the Greek Cypriot administration under its purported capacity as the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus", is null and void and is not, in any way, binding on the Turkish Cypriot people or the island as a whole.

Moreover, the signing of such agreements, as well as the statements made by the Greek Cypriot authorities continue to undermine stability in the whole Eastern Mediterranean region.

In fact, recent developments have shown the urgency of a final comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue that will enable all Turkish and Greek Cypriots to benefit jointly from the island's resources. Therefore, all parties concerned should strive for enhancing prospects for a final and comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Ali Talat**
President